

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CHIANG 00052 100947Z

12

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 103783

R 030413Z MAR 75 ZFG

FM AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 227

S E C R E T CHIANG MAI 052

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y T E X T

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV

SUBJECT: WEEKEND PALACE DOINGS

1. CHIANG MAI GOVERNOR ASA TOLD ME MARCH AA THAT GENERAL KRIS SIVARA WAS SURPRISE PASSENGER ON BUS THAT CARRIED SANYA CABINET UP MOUNTAIN TO FAREWELL AUDIENCE WITH KING MARCH 1. IF OTHERS REGARD MEETING AS HAVING TAKEN PLACE IN ATMOSPHERE OF CRISIS, THAI POWERS-THAT-BE (OR IS IT-WERE?) APPARENTLY BEHAVED OTHERWISE. ASA SAID MUCH LAUGHTER AND BOISTEROUS CONVERSATION DRIFTED OUT THROUGH CLOSED DOORS DURING COURSE OF TWO HOUR AUDIENCE WHILE GOVERNOR WAITED ALONE IN NEXT ROOM.

2. HIS MAJESTY FAILED TO APPEAR AT MARCH 2 CEREMONY AT CMU FACULTY OF MEDICINE TO UNVEIL STATUE OF HIS FATHER, THE PRINCE OF SONGKHLA, WHO IS ALSO KNOWN AS "THE FATHER OF THAI MEDICINE." QUEEN AND PRINCESS SIRINTHORN REPRESENTED HIS MAJESTY. FORMER APPEARED DRAINED BY LONG ORDEAL OF KING'S ILLNESS. SHE WAS OVERHEARD TO TELL SOME MEMBERS OF NORTHERN ROYALTY THAT HIS MAJESTY WAS STILL "VERY, VERY WEAK." PRINCESS MOTHER, WHO IS IN RESIDENCE AT PHUPING PALACE, ALSO DID NOT ATTEND THIS CEREMONY UNVEILING HER HUSBAND'S STATUE, PRESUMABLY FOR PROTOCOL REASONS.

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HARBIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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